What is claimed is:

1. A play audio module configured to be included in an audio resource function, comprising:

an audio play process operable to request a decomposed media gateway to play an audio stream in response to a received signal, wherein the audio play is altered based on at least one signal traveling between the play audio module and the decomposed media gateway and a resultant play is analyzed as to a reason it terminated.

2. A play audio module as defined in claim 1, further comprising a volume adjust process operable to change a volume of the audio stream.

3. A play audio module as defined in claim 1, further comprising a play pause and resume process operable to pause audio play in response to a play pause request and to thereafter resume the audio play in response to a resume play request.

4. A play audio module as defined in claim 1, further comprising a jump forward process operable to jump forward to a specified position in the audio stream and a jump backward process operable to jump backward to a specified position in the audio stream.

5. A play audio module as defined in claim 1, further comprising a coder process operable to allow the decomposed media gateway to specify or determine the coder types supported thereby.

6. A play audio module as defined in claim 1, further comprising a play analysis process operable to determine a condition that caused the audio play to stop and communicate the condition to the decomposed media gateway.

7. A play audio module as defined in claim 1, further comprising a text

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conversion module operable to generate text-to-speech conforming to the SAPI specification.

8. A record audio module configured to be included in an audio resource function, comprising:

an audio record process operable to request a decomposed media gateway to record an audio stream in response to a received signal, wherein media recording is altered based on at least one signal traveling between the record audio module and the decomposed media gateway and a resultant media recording is analyzed as to a reason it terminated.

9. A record audio module as defined in claim 8, further comprising a record pause and resume process operable to pause audio record in response to a record pause request and to thereafter resume the audio record in response to a resume record request.

10. A record audio module as defined in claim 8, further comprising an append process operable to append a recording to an existing recording.

11. A record audio module as defined in claim 8, further comprising a format specifying process operable to specify the digital encoding format of a recording.

12. A record audio module as defined in claim 8, further comprising a recording location process operable to allow the decomposed media gateway to reference where the recording should be created.

13. A record audio module as defined in claim 8, further comprising a pause compression process (also referred to as a silence compression process) operable to detect and to eliminate periods of speech inactivity from a recording.

14. A record audio module as defined in claim 8, further comprising a record prompt tone generation process operable to generate a prompt tone that is either fixed or configurable.

15. A record audio module as defined in claim 8, further comprising a record analysis process operable to determine the length of audio recorded and to identify a record termination condition that caused a recording operation to stop.

16. A method of playing an audio stream, comprising:

providing a play audio module included in an audio resource function that is resident on an audio resource server, said play audio module having a play audio process;

communicating a request signal to the play audio process;

requesting a decomposed media gateway to play an audio stream in response to the request signal communicated to the play audio process;

altering media play based on at least one signal communicated between the play audio module and the decomposed media gateway; and

analyzing a resultant play as to a reason it terminated.

17. A method of playing an audio stream as defined in claim 16, wherein the altering includes providing a volume adjust process and operating the volume adjust process to change the volume of the audio stream.

18. A method of playing an audio stream as defined in claim 16, wherein the altering includes providing a play pause and resume process and operating the play pause and resume process to pause audio play in response to a play pause request and to thereafter resume the audio play in response to a resume play request.

19. A method of playing an audio stream as defined in claim 16, wherein the

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altering includes providing a jump forward process and operating the jump forward

process to jump forward to a specified position in the audio stream and providing a

jump backward process and operating the jump backward process to jump backward

to a specified position in the audio stream.

5   20. A method of playing an audio stream as defined in claim 16, wherein the

altering includes providing a coder process and operating the coder process to

specify or determine the coder types supported thereby.

21. A method of playing an audio stream as defined in claim 16, wherein the

analyzing includes providing a play analysis process and operating to analyze a play

10   signal to determine a condition that caused the audio play to stop and communicate

the condition to the decomposed media gateway.

22. A method of playing an audio stream as defined in claim 16, wherein the

altering includes providing a text conversion process and operating the text

conversion process to generate text-to-speech conforming to the SAPI specification.

15   23. A method of recording an audio stream, comprising:

providing a record audio module included in an audio resource function

that is resident on an audio resource server, said record audio module having a

record audio process;

communicating a request signal to the record audio process;

20   requesting a decomposed media gateway to record an audio stream in

response to the request signal communicated to the record audio process;

altering media record based on at least one signal communicated between

the record audio module and the decomposed media gateway; and

analyzing a resultant recording as to a reason it terminated.

24. A method of recording an audio stream as defined in claim 23, wherein the altering includes providing a record pause and resume process and operating the record pause and resume process to pause audio record in response to a record pause request and to thereafter resume the audio record in response to a resume record

5   request.

25. A method of recording an audio stream as defined in claim 23, wherein the altering includes providing an append process and operating the append process to append a recording to an existing recording.

26. A method of recording an audio stream as defined in claim 23, wherein

10   the altering includes providing a format specifying process and operating the format specifying process to specify the digital encoding format of a recording.

27. A method of recording an audio stream as defined in claim 23, wherein the altering includes providing a recording location process and operating the recording location process to reference where the recording should be created.

15   28. A method of recording an audio stream as defined in claim 23, wherein the altering includes providing a pause compression process and operating the pause compression process to eliminate periods of speech inactivity from a recording.

29. A method of recording an audio stream as defined in claim 23, wherein the altering includes providing a record prompt tone generation process and

20   operating the record prompt tone generation process to generate a prompt tone that is either fixed or configurable.

30. A method of recording an audio stream as defined in claim 23, wherein the analyzing includes providing a record analysis process and operating the record analysis process to determine the length of audio recorded.

31. A method of recording an audio stream as defined in claim 23, wherein the analyzing includes providing a record analysis process and operating the record analysis process to identify a record termination condition that caused a recording operation to stop.